

REMARKS

A telephonic interview was conducted on December 4th, 2003, the substance of which related to hydrogen reduction in the presence of Pt and the incorporation of ammonia as the reducing gas into independent claim 2.

Claims 1-47 have been cancelled and new claims 48-54 have been added. No new matter has been added through the addition of these new claims. New claims 48-54 find support at, for example, pages 6-8 of the Specification.

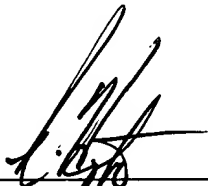
New claim 48 recites a method of forming a metal-comprising mass that includes exposing one or more metallo-organic precursors that include carbon but do not include Ti or Pt to a reducing atmosphere including one or both of NH_3 and an activated hydrogen species to release metal from the one or more precursors.

The cited references do not teach or suggest exposing one or more metallo-organic precursors that include carbon but do not include Ti or Pt to a reducing atmosphere including one or both of NH_3 and an activated hydrogen species. Therefore claim 48 is allowable for at least the reason that it recites features that are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Claims 49-54 depend from claim 48 and are allowable for at least the reasons described above regarding claim 48.

Claims 48-54 are allowable over the cited references for the reasons cited above and Applicant requests allowance of the pending claims in the Examiner's next action.

Respectfully submitted,

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